Web table 3: Reporting of CONSORT for Abstracts items per journal in (A) 2006, (B), 2007, (C) 2008, and (D) 2009

	Annals (n=24)	BMJ (n=55)	JAMA (n=54)	Lancet (n=52)	NEJM (n=60)	Total (n=245)
'Randomized' in the title	23 (96%)	53 (96%)	45 (83%)	52 (100%)	3 (5%)	176 (72%)
Trial design described	6 (25%)	15 (27%)	9 (17%)	13 (25%)	7 (12%)	50 (20%)
Participant eligibility described	24 (100%)	44 (80%)	48 (89%)	43 (83%)	43 (72%)	202 (82%)
Setting described	22 (92%)	46 (84%)	41 (76%)	24 (46%)	6 (10%)	139 (57%)
Interventions for each group described	21 (88%)	37 (67%)	44 (81%)	36 (69%)	38 (63%)	176 (72%)
Specific objective described	24 (100%)	55 (100%)	54 (100%)	51 (98%)	49 (82%)	233 (95%)
Primary outcome defined	9 (38%)	30 (55%)	32 (59%)	45 (87%)	40 (67%)	156 (64%)
Sequence generation described	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Allocation concealment described	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Blinding described (detailed)* Blinding described (generic)†	1 (4%) 10 (42%)	5 (9%) 19 (35%)	4 (7%) 25 (46%)	2 (4%) 30 (58%)	2 (3%) 33 (55%)	14 (6%) 117 (48%)
Number participants randomized to each group described	3 (13%)	15 (27%)	30 (56%)	37 (71%)	20 (33%)	105 (43%)
Number of participants analysed in each group described	1 (4%)	10 (18%)	12 (22%)	16 (31%)	9 (15%)	48 (19%)
Primary outcome, result for each group and effect size described	7 (29%)	22 (40%)	26 (48%)	26 (50%)	24 (40%)	105 (43%)
Precision (e.g. CI) described	17 (71%)	37 (67%)	34 (63%)	42 (81%)	26 (43%)	156 (64%)
Harms described	2 (8%)	11 (20%)	15 (28%)	25 (48%)	33 (55%)	86 (35%)
Conclusions described	24 (100%)	55 (100%)	54 (100%)	51 (98%)	59 (98%)	243 (99%)
Trial registry given	6 (25%)	34 (62%)	51 (94%)	44 (85%)	51 (85%)	186 (76%)
Funding source described	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

* Abstract detailed specifically who was blinded (e.g. whether or not participants, care providers, and those assessing outcomes were blinded to group assignment).
† Abstract simply mention the word single, double blind, placebo without further description. 14 abstracts were reported as unblinded / open label.

Web table 3B

	Annals (n=28)	BMJ (n=40)	JAMA (n=47)	Lancet (n=60)	NEJM (n=60)	Total (n=235)
'Randomized' in the title	27 (96%)	38 (95%)	40 (85%)	60 (100%)	1 (2%)	166 (71%)
Trial design described	3 (11%)	13 (33%)	13 (28%)	12 (25%)	7 (12%)	48 (20%)
Participant eligibility described	28 (100%)	38 (95%)	45 (96%)	47 (78%)	52 (87%)	210 (89%)
Setting described	26 (93%)	38 (95%)	38 (81%)	26 (43%)	9 (15%)	137 (58%)
Interventions for each group described	24 (86%)	29 (73%)	42 (89%)	48 (80%)	40 (67%)	183 (78%)
Specific objective described	28 (100%)	40 (100%)	47 (100%)	60 (100%)	57 (95%)	232 (99%)
Primary outcome defined	19 (68%)	24 (60%)	29 (62%)	54 (90%)	40 (67%)	166 (71%)
Sequence generation described	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Allocation concealment described	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Blinding described (detailed)* Blinding described (generic)†	1 (4%) 21 (75%)	1 (3%) 13 (33%)	3 (6%) 28 (60%)	3 (5%) 29 (48%)	0 (0%) 31 (52%)	8 (3%) 122 (52%)
Number participants randomized to each group described	6 (21%)	21 (53%)	30 (64)	43 (72%)	25 (42%)	125 (53%)
Number of participants analysed in each group described	6 (21%)	8 (20%)	18 (38%)	23 (38%)	9 (15%)	64 (27%)
Primary outcome, result for each group and effect size described	24 (86%)	29 (73%)	31 (66%)	40 (67%)	27 (45%)	151 (64%)
Precision (e.g. CI) described	26 (93%)	33 (82%)	35 (74%)	46 (77%)	29 (48%)	169 (72%)
Harms described	13 (46%)	8 (20%)	11 (23%)	24 (40%)	32 (53%)	88 (37%)
Conclusions described	28 (100%)	40 (100%)	45 (96%)	60 (100%)	60 (100%)	233 (99%)
Trial registry given	19 (68%)	37 (93%)	46 (98%)	60 (100%)	58 (97%)	220 (94%)
Funding source described	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (3%)	2 (1%)

* Abstract detailed specifically who was blinded (e.g. whether or not participants, care providers, and those assessing outcomes were blinded to group assignment).
† Abstract simply mention the word single, double blind, placebo without further description. 16 abstracts were reported as unblinded or open label.

Web table 3C

	Annals (n=16)	BMJ (n=41)	JAMA (n=49)	Lancet (n=60)	NEJM (n=60)	Total (n=226)
'Randomized' in the title	16 (100%)	41 (100%)	47 (96%)	57 (95%)	0 (0%)	161 (71%)
Trial design described	5 (31%)	17 (41%)	13 (27%)	24 (40%)	4 (7%)	63 (28%)
Participant eligibility described	16 (100%)	37 (90%)	46 (94%)	56 (93%)	45 (75%)	200 (89%)
Setting described	13 (81%)	36 (88%)	43 (88%)	32 (53%)	7 (12%)	131 (58%)
Interventions for each group described	13 (81%)	31 (76%)	43 (88%)	51 (85%)	45 (75%)	183 (81%)
Specific objective described	16 (100%)	41 (100%)	49 (100%)	60 (100%)	52 (87%)	218 (96%)
Primary outcome defined	14 (88%)	20 (49%)	30 (61%)	59 (98%)	48 (80%)	171 (76%)
Sequence generation described	1 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	23 (38%)	0 (0%)	24 (11%)
Allocation concealment described	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	12 (20%)	0 (0%)	12 (5%)
Blinding described (detailed)* Blinding described (generic)†	2 (13%) 9 (56%)	0 (0%) 16 (39%)	7 (14%) 26 (53%)	12 (20%) 33 (55%)	0 (0%) 32 (53%)	21 (9%) 116 (51%)
Number participants randomized to each group described	3 (19%)	18 (44%)	18 (37%)	52 (87%)	20 (33%)	111 (49%)
Number of participants analysed in each group described	4 (25%)	8 (20%)	14 (29%)	39 (65%)	12 (20%)	77 (34%)
Primary outcome, result for each group and effect size described	13 (81%)	19 (46%)	33 (67%)	48 (80%)	32 (53%)	145 (64%)
Precision (e.g. CI) described	16 (100%)	32 (78%)	43 (88%)	50 (83%)	34 (57%)	175 (77%)
Harms described	9 (56%)	8 (20%)	24 (49%)	39 (65%)	44 (73%)	124 (55%)
Conclusions described	16 (100%)	40 (100%)	48 (98%)	60 (100%)	60 (100%)	224 (99%)
Trial registry given	1 (6%)	41 (100%)	49 (100%)	59 (98%)	59 (98%)	209 (92%)
Funding source described	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	8 (13%)	0 (0%)	8 (4%)

* Abstract detailed specifically who was blinded (e.g. whether or not participants, care providers, and those assessing outcomes were blinded to group assignment).
† Abstract simply mention the word single, double blind, placebo without further description. 9 abstracts were reported as unblinded.

Web table 3D

	Annals (n=27)	BMJ (n=51)	JAMA (n=47)	Lancet (n=60)	NEJM (n=60)	Total (n=245)
'Randomized' in the title	27 (100%)	51 (100%)	47 (100%)	60 (100%)	8 (13%)	193 (79%)
Trial design described	4 (15%)	26 (51%)	14 (30%)	19 (32%)	8 (13%)	71 (29%)
Participant eligibility described	27 (100%)	50 (98%)	46 (98%)	60 (100%)	53 (88%)	236 (96%)
Setting described	26 (96%)	50 (98%)	42 (89%)	37 (62%)	7 (12%)	162 (66%)
Interventions for each group described	27 (100%)	49 (96%)	46 (98%)	54 (90%)	50 (83%)	226 (92%)
Specific objective described	27 (100%)	51 (100%)	47 (100%)	60 (100%)	53 (88%)	238 (97%)
Primary outcome defined	23 (85%)	39 (76%)	39 (83%)	59 (98%)	51 (85%)	211 (86%)
Sequence generation described	21 (78%)	2 (4%)	0 (0%)	27 63%)	0 (0%)	50 (20%)
Allocation concealment described	16 (59%)	3 (6%)	0 (0%)	15 (25%)	0 (0%)	34 (14%)
Blinding described (detailed)* Blinding described (generic)†	19 (70%) 6 (22%)	10 (20%) 12 (24%)	6 (13%) 12 (26%)	21 (35%) 28 (47%)	3 (5%) 28 (47%)	59 (24%) 88 (36%)
Number participants randomized to each group described	21 (78%)	25 (49%)	24 (51%)	53 (88%)	24 (40%)	149 (61%)
Number of participants analysed in each group described	11 (41%)	10 (20%)	6 (13%)	43 (72%)	14 (23%)	84 (34%)
Primary outcome, result for each group and effect size described	17 (63%)	24 (47%)	22 (47%)	50 (83%)	38 (63%)	151 (62%)
Precision (e.g. CI) described	24 (89%)	42 (82%)	44 (94%)	50 (83%)	39 (65%)	207 (85%)
Harms described	16 (59%)	17 (33%)	15 (32%)	48 (80%)	44 (73%)	140 (57%)
Conclusions described	27 (100%)	51 (100%)	47 (100%)	60 (100%)	60 (100%)	245 (100%)
Trial registry given	3 (11%)	50 (98%)	47 (100%)	60 (100%)	59 (98%)	219 (98%)
Funding source described	19 (70%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	47 (78%)	0 (0%)	66 (27%)

* Abstract detailed specifically who was blinded (e.g. whether or not participants, care providers, and those assessing outcomes were blinded to group assignment).

† Abstract simply mention the word single, double blind, placebo without further description. 5 abstracts were reported as unblinded / open label.